



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Angie Nussmeyer, 317/ 233-5050

Northeastern Indiana businesses join Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today Gov. Joe Kernan announced that DeKalb County's **Heidtman Steel Products** and Steuben County's **Univertical Corp.** have enrolled in Indiana@Work.

Announced in January, Indiana@Work identifies and develops workforce skills, while seeking to match individuals to jobs based on skill levels. Working with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development the companies will assess the skills of up to 83 new and existing workers and profile eight job categories. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has committed \$15,793 toward providing these services to the companies free-of-charge.

"In order for Indiana businesses to compete in today's global environment, we must prepare our workforce by partnering with companies like Heidtman Steel and Univertical," Kernan said. "Our recent efforts, including restructuring the tax system and focusing on quality jobs, were the first steps. There is still work to be done to create and maintain the world's best workforce and that's what Indiana@Work is all about."

Heidtman Steel Products Inc. is the largest privately held flat-rolled steel service center network in the United States. The Butler production facility provides pickling, slitting, tempering and cut-to-length services for the steel industry. Three positions -- maintenance, slitter operator and slitter set-up -- will be profiled and 33 existing employees will be assessed with the \$5,963 from Indiana@Work.

Steuben County's **Univertical Corp.** is an industry leader, providing high quality copper and nickel anodes and metallic chemicals to the plating industry. The 66-year-old company moved to its current headquarters in Angola in 1999 from Detroit and merged its anode and chemical manufacturing facilities to one location. Employing 55 workers, the new location has also allowed Univertical to perfect its three-axis process for the production of copper ball anodes. Seeking to increase its productivity, Univertical will utilize \$9,830 from Indiana@Work to assess the skills of up to 50 potential employees as it seeks to fill five new positions. Univertical Corp. also will profile its shift supervisor, CRB operator, general maintenance, chemical operator as well as its shipping and receiving positions.

"We must push our culture to grow on an individual basis, and then, through both work and community, we will achieve success. Growth and education is a lifelong process," said W. Chuck Walker, the company's president:

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express

Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 18,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

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The centerpiece of the program is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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